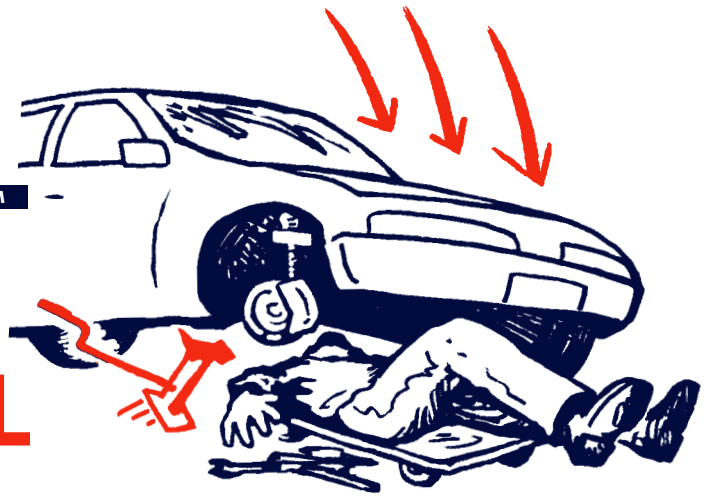


## FALLING VEHICLES KILL

*The California FACE Program has investigated 122 workplace deaths since 1992. The cases below highlight how two of these workers died.*



### A MECHANIC IS KILLED BY A FALLING FORKLIFT

**A** mechanic died when a forklift slipped off a jack and the forklift hit him in the head. The mechanic jacked up the forklift using a hydraulic jack. He did not use jack stands, wood blocks, or any other rigid, stable support to hold the forklift after it had been jacked up. The area of the shop yard under the forklift had a slight incline. The victim chocked only one wheel of the forklift with a wooden block. The forklift slipped while the victim was lying on a creeper underneath the forklift.

Some workers may assume they can safely work underneath vehicles that are only supported by a jack. Jacks should never be the only support of a vehicle when someone is underneath that vehicle. They should be used to lift the vehicle enough so that additional support can be positioned.

### A MECHANIC IS CRUSHED UNDER A FALLING BUS.

**A** mechanic died when a bus that fell off jack stands crushed him. He had jacked the bus up with lifts that cradle each rear tire. He then placed jack stands underneath the rear suspension. They were not of a standard design. The front tires had not been chocked. The bus

slipped off the jack stands as he was performing a brake job. The bus crushed the mechanic between the rear axle and the concrete floor.

Vehicles may move if the chocking is inadequate. At a minimum, chocks should be placed on both sides of the wheel diagonally opposite of where the jack is placed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Support vehicles adequately. Use ASME-approved jack stands, wood (not concrete) blocks, or other rigid, stable supports.
- ▶ Prevent vehicle movement. Work on level surfaces and adequately chock the vehicle's wheels.

Further information on this subject may be obtained at the following websites:

[www.dir.ca.gov/samples/search/query.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/samples/search/query.htm)  
(Title 8 section 3562) and [www.asme.org](http://www.asme.org).

For more information on the FACE program, visit:  
[www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/ohsep/face](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/ohsep/face)

Reference: Safety Standards for Portable Automotive Lifting Devices-PALD1997. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

# PLEASE POST

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**FACE** is a public health program run by the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). **FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation."** The purpose of the **FACE** program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.